

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 9-15 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter. Please AMEND claims 1, 3-8, 16 and 17, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:
 - a step of generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;
 - a step of generating a calibration condition for said reading means, using a second chart printed in advance; and
 - a discrimination step of discriminating said first and second charts, charts;
wherein said discrimination step discriminates whether a chart read in each of said step of generating the calibration condition for the image forming means and said step of generating the calibration condition for the image reading means is an appropriate chart.

2. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second charts is provided with a mark formed by a color corresponding to a kind of the chart; and
said discrimination step discriminates the color of said mark.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of informing to a user when one of the charts ~~said chart~~ is discriminated as inappropriate.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for generating a calibration condition matching the characteristics of an apparatus based on data obtained by reading a chart, the method comprising steps of:

detecting, from said data, a mark attached to said chart; and
discriminating whether said data are appropriate according to a result of said detecting step detection.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

informing a user of a fact that the reading position or the resolution in reading said chart is inappropriate, according to a result of said detecting step detection.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

discriminating whether said chart is skewed according to the result of said detecting step detection; and
informing a user of a skewed position when said chart is skewed.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:

informing a user of a fact that a kind of said chart is inappropriate, according to a result of said detecting step detection.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

judging a direction of said chart according to a result of said detecting step detection; and

generating said calibration condition from said detected data according to said direction.

9 -15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
means for generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading; means for generating a calibration condition for said reading means, using a second chart printed in advance; and

discrimination means for discriminating said first and second charts, charts;

wherein said discrimination means discriminates whether a chart read by in each of said means for generating the calibration condition for the image forming means and said means for generating the calibration condition for the image reading means is an appropriate chart.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a software for of an image processing method, the method comprising:

 a step of generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;

 a step of generating a calibration condition for said reading means, utilizing a second chart printed in advance; and

 a discrimination step of discriminating said first and second charts, charts; wherein said discrimination step discriminates whether a chart read in each of said step of generating the calibration condition for the image forming means and said step of generating the calibration condition for the image reading means is an appropriate chart.

18. (Cancelled)